

WASHINGTON, D.C. (August 1, 2011) --Rep. Jan Schakowsky (D-IL,) a member of the bipartisan President's Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform, released the following statement on today's vote in the House of Representatives:

"For weeks Republicans in Congress, led by radical Tea Party members, have held hostage the full faith and credit of the United States, refusing to pay America's bills until they could force huge spending cuts.

"Their mission has been to eviscerate everything from Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security to the Clean Water and Clean Air Acts. Republicans intentionally created a crisis in order to get their way.

"This is the wrong medicine for a sick economy. This bill could increase unemployment, slow economic growth and deepen already historic income inequality.

"Though I have voted to raise the debt ceiling in the past, I cannot in good conscience support this deal which requires \$1 trillion in spending cuts that make the middle-class, the poor and seniors sacrifice while millionaires and billionaires are not asked to pay a single penny for deficit reduction.

"It is clear where my district stands. Hundreds of constituents called my office today -- 20 to 1 opposed to this bill.

"Looking ahead, Congress must focus on the immediate crises: a disappearing American dream crisis, a jobs crisis, a foreclosure crisis, and an income inequality crisis.

"The fight is not over after this vote. I will work to make sure that job creation is our number one priority, that the wealthiest Americans pay their share and that our seniors are protected from harmful benefit cuts."

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